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WV Center for the Book Chooses *The King of Little Things* to represent WV at the National Book Festival

CHARLESTON, WV. The West Virginia Center for the Book at the West Virginia Library Commission has selected *The King of Little Things* by Bil Lepp to represent West Virginia at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, DC.

The book is the state's selection for the National Book Festival's "Discover Great Places Through Reading Map." Each state selects one title of fiction or non-fiction, a book about the state or by an author from the state that is a good read for children or young adults. The map is distributed at the Pavilion of the States at the Festival and lists "Great Reads about Great Places."

The King of Little Things, with illustrations by David T. Wenzel, won the 2013 Parents' Choice Award for picture books. "It's a beautifully written and illustrated book that draws in both young and young adult readers," said Suzy McGinley, Youth Services Consultant for the West Virginia Library Commission. "I'm proud that it will represent West Virginia at the National Book Festival this year."

According to [Publisher's Weekly](#), "It's hard to miss the point of this fable about the kindly King of Little Things . . . and his victimization by the ambitious and obnoxious King Normous Lepp revels in exploring the many ways the King of Little Things' insignificant but loyal subjects serve him, offering help in an early skirmish ("the soldiers found mealworms in their bread, chiggers in their underpants, and fungus between their toes") Wenzel delivers Mad magazine-style spreads of medieval feasts, battles, capes, and crowns. Brainy wordplay abounds, and a scavenger hunt is included, too. Lepp affirms living simply without sounding smarmy, and Wenzel offers a king whose underpants fall off."

Bill Lepp, who lives in Charleston, WV with his wife and two children, is an internationally-known storyteller and humorist, a five-time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest, and the recipient of the Storytelling Circle of Excellence Award.

The National Book Festival will be held in Washington, DC at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on Saturday, August 30, 2014. Festival-goers can meet and hear their favorite poets and authors, get books signed, hear special entertainment, have photos taken with storybook characters and participate in a variety of activities. The Pavilion of the States will represent reading and library programs and literary events in all 50 states, the District of

Columbia and the U.S. trusts and territories. Children attending the festival are given maps to take to each state's table to have that state stamped to receive a prize. For more information, please [visit the Library of Congress website](#).

The West Virginia Center for the Book at the West Virginia Library Commission promotes the importance of books and reading and highlights the state's unique literary heritage, from its earliest storytellers to modern novelists and poets.

The West Virginia Library Commission serves the people of West Virginia and encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians. More information is available at www.librarycommission.wv.gov.

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Contact: Preston Richardson, Information Specialist
E-mail: preston.i.richardson@wv.gov
Phone: (304) 558-3978, ext. 2010
Fax: (304) 558-1612
www.librarycommission.wv.gov